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11 Oct. 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief, Interdepartmental Coordinating
and Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Suggested Conference Relating to Intelligence
Libraries

1. ORE agrees with the suggestion in Colonel Eddy's memorandum of 19 September, attached to your memorandum of 30 September, that CIG sponsor a meeting of representatives of the various departmental intelligence libraries. We believe that such a meeting would be of value to the various libraries concerned as well as to the Reference Branch of ORE, when the latter is activated.

2. ORE takes exception, however, to the suggestion that areas of responsibility for maintaining intelligence files should be defined in relation to the allocation of collection responsibilities. Such definition of library responsibilities should be related to allocation of research responsibilities, since proximity of materials to their principal users is the essential point.

3. ORE therefore believes that definitive allocation to the various libraries of responsibilities for maintaining intelligence files must wait on an allocation of research responsibilities; but the question can certainly be discussed in a preliminary way.

4. In addition, the following subjects are suggested for discussion:

a. Provision for expeditious and unhampered exchange of intelligence materials (as suggested by Colonel Eddy).

b. Provision for exchange of information on the contents of the various libraries.

(A fuller knowledge by the various librarians of the contents of other libraries, their strengths and weaknesses, etc., would facilitate the collection of reference materials for an agency research project and in general would improve and expedite research. This would be a substitute for a Central Index which at one time was proposed but which proved to be too enormous a task.)

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c. Possibility of joint and cooperative effort in preparing a single classification system for use in a coordinated collection program.

(Although Army's BID, Navy's MIG, etc., are not strictly speaking library classification systems, any study looking toward their revision, coordination or amalgamation should be the work of trained librarians. The task can be facilitated by cooperative action.)

d. Provision for the fullest use of libraries outside of Washington, and for their proper representation in a program for coordinating intelligence libraries.

(Much valuable research material is out of town, as for instance at Wright Field (air technical intelligence), Maxwell Field (AAF Air University), Carlisle (materials on military government), etc.)

5. It is further suggested that the Library of Congress, and perhaps also the library of the Department of Commerce, be invited to send representatives to the meeting, if it is decided to hold one.

J. KLAHR HUDDLE
Acting Asst. Director
Research and Evaluation

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(Intelligence Libraries)

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Remarks:

Dr Montague -

I wonder whether

could prepare something on this and be ready to present OR at subsequent deliberations